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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,109	07/10/2003	Norbert Marxer	TNCR.007US3	5810
36257	7590	12/14/2004	EXAMINER	
PARSONS HSUE & DE RUNTZ LLP 655 MONTGOMERY STREET SUITE 1800 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111				ROSENBERGER, RICHARD A
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2877

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	OJW
	10/619,109	MARXER ET AL.	
	Examiner Richard A Rosenberger	Art Unit 2877	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-87 and 89-108 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-87 and 89-108 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 36-68, drawn to an optical system for detecting contaminants and defects on a surface, classified in class 356, subclass 237.2.
 - II. Claim 70-87 and 89-108, drawn to an optical system for detecting contaminates and defects on a surface, classified in class 356, subclass 237.2.
2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: The inventions of the two groups relate to different aspects of optical measuring systems; although the general use of the system are different, the details differ. For example, independent claims 36 and 57 in group I call for systems having two arrays of detectors, while the claims in group II do not require the detectors to be arrays of detectors. Independent claims 36 and 57 in group I require that there are two collectors "each substantially rotationally symmetrical about its optical axis" in claim 36 with a similar limitation in claim 57; the claims in group II do not require this rotational symmetry. The claims in group require the use of polarized light which does not appear to be critical feature of the claimed invention of group I. Also, the claims of group II, except for claim 70, call for the collectors having ranged of collection angels that "are away from and that do not include a line normal to the test surface" (claim 71, with similar language in claims 79, 87, and 98) which is not claimed in any of the claims of group I.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. The divergence in the subject matter requires different types of considerations of the two groups of claims, and the patentability or unpatentability of the claims of one group does not imply the patentability or unpatentability of the claims in the other group.

3. An action was given on all of the claims, without restriction, in the previous office action, based in part on the manner in which the claims were then claimed and because of their generally common classifications. However, the amendments to the claims have sharpened the distinctions between the two groups and have changed the relationships between the subject matter claimed in the two groups, making it clear that, as now claimed, the divergence in the subject matter of the two groups of claims will interfere with a proper and orderly prosecution on the merits without undue burden on the Office. There mere fact that the two groups have a common classification does not mean that the issues and considerations needed for examination will be the same.

Any inconvenience caused by not having made the restriction earlier is regretted.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if

one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

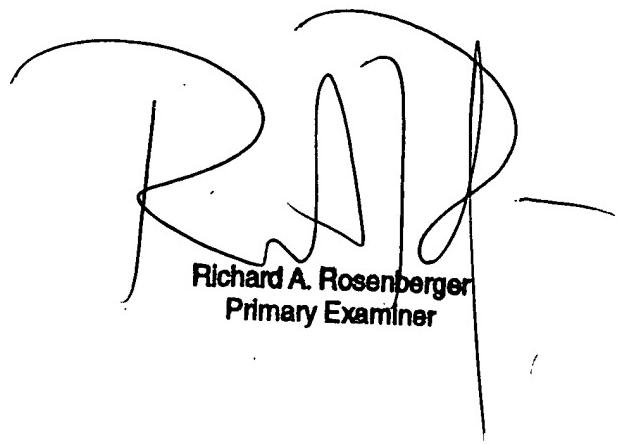
5. The terminal disclaimer filed on 27 September 2004 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of 6,606,153 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard A Rosenberger whose telephone number is (571) 272-2428. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday during the hours of 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley, Jr. can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext. 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

R. A. Rosenberger
10 December 2004



Richard A. Rosenberger
Primary Examiner